

Mr. Selater remarked that the much vexed question whether *L. erythropterus* were really the female of *L. perspicillatus* might thus be considered to be finally set at rest.

Dr. Habel, of New York, exhibited and made remarks on a selection from a collection of birds formed in the Galapagos Islands, to which he had recently paid a five months' visit. Dr. Habel stated that his whole collection embraced upwards of 300 specimens, referable to about 70 species, some of which he believed to be new to science. Dr. Habel had likewise made extensive collections in other branches of natural history, and was preparing to publish a complete account of the fauna of the Galapagos based upon these investigations.

The following papers were read:—

1. On *Anarhynchus*.

By Dr. G. HARTLAUB, F.M.Z.S.

It is now thirty-six years since a good French work, the zoological part of the 'Voyage de l'Astrolabe,' by Quoy et Gaimard (Zoologie, Paris, 1833), brought to our knowledge the full and rather detailed generic and specific description of a very curious gallatorial bird from the east coast of the Northern Island of New Zealand. This bird was introduced into the system under the name of *Anarhynchus*, its beak being "recourbé en haut comme les Avocettes et dévié à droite." Though the hunters of this expedition had killed a certain number of individuals, only one, a younger bird, "dont le sexe n'était pas encore caractérisé," was deposited in the galleries of the Jardin des Plantes. Besides this one specimen, the beaks of several others had been collected and preserved, to show that the most anomalous, nay almost incredible, lateral bend of the apical half of the beak was not an accidental but a constant formation. What has become of these beaks? Whether they have really been deposited in the Paris Museum, and whether they are still to be found there or not, nobody has ever ascertained. The unique and very indifferent-looking specimen in the Paris collection having been overlooked by most ornithologists, the whole *Anarhynchus*-matter became rather apocryphal, and the more so when the Nestor of English ornithologists, Mr. G. R. Gray, declared that this bird was represented in the 'Voyage de l'Astrolabe' with a deformed beak, that organ being perfectly straight in most specimens. Now it is really difficult to understand how such an apodictical opinion could have been given by one who certainly had never seen an *Anarhynchus*; for so much is certain, that up to this year no other specimen of the rare New-Zealand bird had reached any of the greater collections of Europe. In Dieffenbach's work, as well as in the 'Zoology of H.M.S.S. Erebus and Terror,' it is simply enumerated; and Bonaparte, who most erroneously places *Anarhynchus* between *Terekia*

and *Numenius*, had very probably never autoptically examined the old specimen of the 'Astrolabe' voyage.

We must add that in a very complete and critical essay on a paper of Mr. Buller, on the avifauna of New Zealand, by our friend Dr. O. Finsch, the *Anarhynchus* is not even mentioned.

So this interesting bird remained obscure and almost forgotten till a few weeks ago, when, in a large collection of New-Zealand birds sent by the well known naturalist Dr. Julius Haast to the Bremen Museum, we were most agreeably surprised by the discovery of two fine specimens, adult male and female, of *Anarhynchus frontalis*. The label of these specimens bore the inscription, "*Hiaticula*, sp., crooked bill constant." We regret to say that we do not know in what particular portion of New Zealand these birds were collected. One of them, the male, is now deposited in the Bremen Museum; the other will find its way into the splendid collection of Marquis Turati at Milan.

The generic position of *Anarhynchus* was very judiciously determined by its first discoverers, and was afterwards adopted by Mr. G. R. Gray. It most certainly belongs to the *Charadriadæ*. The form of the bill, though quite extraordinary, and by its abrupt lateral bend quite unique in the ornithological series, offers, nevertheless, a very distinct likeness to that of *Strepsilas*. But in the entire absence of a hind toe, as well as in the style of the colouring, it is more like an *Hiaticula*. The feet are somewhat larger than in this latter division; but the proportional arrangement of the toes is the same, the inner being a little shorter than the outer. Still the formation of the feet is somewhat different from that of all other *Charadriadæ*; for the lateral toes are united to the middle one at the base by a membrane, which occupies the first phalanx, and which is laterally continued over the other phalanges in the form of a narrow band or rim. When MM. Quoy and Gaimard point at the generic similarity to *Calidris*, we must not overlook that in this latter genus the inner and outer toe are of equal length, and without any membranaceous connexion with the middle one. The only affinity to *Thinornis* consists in the comparative length of the beak, that part being much shorter in the true Plovers; the feet are totally different. In all *Charadriinæ*, without exception, the first quill is more or less the longest.

ANARHYNCHUS, Q. et G.

Char. gen.—Rostrum *elongatum, gracile, subcompressum, apicem versus attenuatum, acutum, tertia parte apicali nonnihil sursum et distinctissime dextrorsum flexum, basi ad nares usque plumulis brevissimis obtectum; naribus linearibus, in fossa longitudinali elongata positis. Alæ elongatæ, caudæ apicem superantes, acuminatæ, rigidæ, remige primo omnium longissimo, reliquis sensim brevioribus; secundariis longis, acutis, mollibus. Cauda mediocris, rotundata, e rectricibus duodecim composita. Pedes sutis robusti, mediocres; pollex nullus; digiti membrana basali (per latera phalangum conspicue lateraliter elongata)*

inter se conjuncti; internus externo brevior. Ungues acuti. Ptilosis ut in Hiaticulis.

ANARHYNCHUS FRONTALIS, Q. et G.

A. frontalis, Q. et G. Zool. Astrol. i. p. 252, t. 31. f. 2 (av. juv.); Reichenb. Syst. Av. Nat. t. 17; *id.* Nat. Vög. f. 658; Less. Compl. Œuvr. Buff. ix. p. 427.

Thinornis? frontalis, G. R. Gray, Gen. of B. iii. p. 545; *id.* List of B. N. Zeal. p. 22; Dieffenb. Trav. N. Z. ii. p. 196; Zool. Ereb. and Terr. (Birds) p. 12.

? *Charadrius frontalis*, Ellm. Zoologist, 1861, p. 7469; Bonap. Compt. Rend. Acad. tome xliii.; Excurs. div. Mus. et Tabl. parall. Echass. p. 17.

Diag.—*Supra cinereus, scapis plumarum obscuris subfuscescentibus; macula frontali alba, supra nigro marginata; subtus albus, fascia pectorali latiuscula, circumscripte nigra; remigibus obscure fuscescentibus, scapis albis; subalaribus et subcaudalibus albis; reatricibus intermediis fuscescentibus, pallidius marginatis, reliquis albis, medialiter nonnihil infuscatis; rostro nigro; pedibus obscuris.*

Juv. *Fascia pectorali nigra nulla; macula frontali alba absque margine nigro.*

Long. tot. circa $6\frac{1}{2}''$, rostr. $1''$, al. $4'' 6'''$, tars. $1''$, dig. med. $10\frac{1}{2}'''$, ung. dig. med. $1'''$.

Upper parts ashy grey, with the shafts of the feathers of an obscure fuscous-brown; a circumscribed frontal spot white, with a narrow black upper margin; lores white; ears whitish, mixed; under parts pure white, with a circumscribed black band over the upper part of the breast; wing-feathers fuscous-brown, with white shafts; the inner web whitish, but the tips all brown; secondaries grey, a little infuscated along the middle; upper wing-coverts like the back; under wing-coverts white; tail-feathers brownish, with the margins paler and greyish, lateral ones white, a little brownish along the middle; upper tail-coverts like the back; under tail-coverts white; beak black; feet dark greyish. (♂ and ♀.)

The younger bird, as figured by Quoy and Gaimard, has the under parts all white, without the pectoral band; but the grey colour of the upper part advances a little on the sides of the upper breast.

Long. tot.	rostr.	al.	caud.	tars.	dig. med.	
$6'' 6'''$	$12'''$	$4'' 6'''$	$1'' 5'''$	$12'''$	$10\frac{1}{2}'''$	(♂.)
6 6	13	4 6	1 6	11	10	(♀.)
6 2	13	—	—	13	12	(juv.)

The collectors of the 'Astrolabe' expedition discovered the *Anarhynchus* at Chouraki (Houraki?) Bay, a deep and spacious indentation of the east coast of the Northern Island of New Zealand. There it lived along the marshy shores of the sea; and small flocks were observed on the salt-water channels surrounding this locality. If Mr. Ellman's *Charadrius frontalis* really applies to our bird (a

very doubtful supposition), it would be called *Pohoera* by the natives, and would never be seen inland.

From what exact locality of New Zealand the two specimens sent by Dr. J. Haast came we cannot say; but the circumstance of this gentleman living at Christchurch makes it probable that they were killed on the Southern Island.

P.S. *Scolopax sumatrana*, Raffl. (Linn. Trans. xiii.), "a small species with the long bill curved upwards, grey above, white beneath, quill-feathers blackish," a bird which Mr. G. R. Gray seems inclined to consider not different from *Anarhynchus*, has nothing to do with our New Zealand bird, but is certainly *Terekia cinerea*.

2. Oiseaux nouveaux de l'Afrique occidentale.

Par J. V. BARBOZA DU BOCAGE.

(Plate XXIX.)

1. COSSYPHA SUBRUFESCENS.

Supra olivaceo-cinerea, uropygio et supracaudalibus ferrugineis; subtus flavo-ferruginea, abdomine medio pallidior; capite genisque nigris; superciliis protractis, albis; tectricibus alæ cinerascente indutis, olivaceo limbatis; remigibus fuscis, pogonio externo cinerascente; subalaribus ferrugineis; rectricibus duabus mediis nigricantibus, reliquis ferrugineis, extimæ poyonio externo versus basim nigricante; pedibus fuscis; iride brunne.

Jun. *Tectricibus alæ macula apicali rufescente notatis.*

Long. 0·210 metr., rostri a rictu 0·024, alæ 0·102, caudæ 0·094, tarsi 0·032.

Deux individus de Caconda, un mâle adulte et un jeune. Ils se rapprochent de *Bessonornis semirufa*, Rüpp. (Syst. Uebers. Vög. Nord-Ost-Afr. p. 44, pl. 21), mais leur taille est plus forte, et la teinte du dos et des ailes assez distincte.

2. CRATEROPUS AFFINIS.

C. plebejo, Rüpp., similis, sed major. Supra brunneo-cinerascens. subtus et in uropygio pallidior; plumis capitibus, colli, gutturi-pectorisque medio obscurioribus et macula apicali alba notatis; remigibus primariis totis brunneis; rectricibus cinereo-brunneis fusco transversim fasciolatis; rostro nigro; pedibus fuscis; iride rubra.

Long. 0·235 metr., rostri a rictu 0·024, alæ 0·105, caudæ 0·107, tarsi 0·030.

An *Crat. plebejus*, Hartl. (Syst. der Orn. W.-Afr. p. 79)?

Un seul individu mâle de Leullengues, dans l'intérieur de Mossamedes.

3. BUCCANODON ANCHIETÆ. (Plate XXIX.)

Brunneo-rufescens, collo pectoreque nitide nigris; pileo, mento